Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A seam closing apparatus for use in sealing a duct seam having an outwardly extending sealing portion and a lower fold, said seam closing apparatus comprising:

a handle portion having a power actuation trigger;

a first roller for engaging said outwardly extending sealing portion of said duct seam with a first annular surface, said first annular surface having a uni-planar profile;

a second roller for engaging said lower fold of said duct seam with a groove formed in a second annular surface; and

wherein operation of said power actuation trigger causes said first roller to rotate in a first direction, thereby flattening said outwardly extending sealing portion of said duct seam.

2. (Original) The seam closing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

operation of said power actuation trigger causes said second roller to rotate in a second direction, said second direction being opposite to said first direction.

3. (Currently Amended) The seam closing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

~~said second roller includes an annular groove formed thereon for capturing said lower fold of said duct seam.~~

said first roller and said second roller are operatively mounted in a step-wise manner such that said first annular surface and said second annular surface are offset from one another.

4. (Currently Amended) The seam closing apparatus according to claim ~~1~~ 3, wherein:

~~said first roller is eccentrically formed.~~

said first annular surface and said second annular surface do not substantially directly oppose one another.

5. (Original) The seam closing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein:

said first roller is mounted to an operation end of said seam closing apparatus; and

said first roller includes an angled profile such that a diameter of said first roller is not uniform.

6. (Original) The seam closing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein:

said first roller and said second roller share a common drive source.

7. (Currently Amended) The seam closing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

said first and said second rollers are rotatably mounted to an operation end of said seam closing apparatus; and

an idler handle is pivotably connected to said operation end wherein said second roller may be selectively engaged via operation of said idler ~~roller~~ handle.

8. (Currently Amended) The seam closing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein:

said idler ~~roller~~ handle is operatively connected to said second roller such that pivoting of said idler ~~roller~~ handle causes said second roller to move from a first non-engaging position to a second engaging position.

9. (Currently Amended) A hand-held seam closing apparatus for use in sealing a duct seam having an outwardly extending sealing portion and a lower fold, said seam closing apparatus comprising:

a handle portion having a power actuation trigger for selectively enabling operation of said hand-held seam closing apparatus;

a pair of opposing rollers rotatably mounted upon a distal end of said hand-held seam closing apparatus, said pair of opposing rollers being operatively mounted in a step-wise manner such that said pair of opposing rollers are offset from one another; and

wherein operation of said power actuation trigger causes said one of said pair of opposing rollers to rotate in a first direction.

10. (Original) The hand-held seam closing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein:

operation of said power actuation trigger causes said pair of opposing rollers to each rotate in opposing directions to one another.

11. (Currently Amended) The hand-held seam closing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein:

one of said opposing rollers includes an annular groove formed thereon for capturing said lower fold of said duct seam; and

the other of said opposing rollers defines a uni-planar annular surface for biasing said sealing portion.

12. (Original) The hand-held seam closing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein:

the other of said pair of opposing rollers is eccentrically formed.

13. (Original) The hand-held seam closing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein:

said other of said opposing rollers is mounted to a planar mounting surface on said distal end; and

said other of said opposing rollers includes an angled profile such that a diameter of said other of said opposing rollers increases in an axial direction extending outwardly from said planar surface of said distal end.

14. (Original) The hand-held seam closing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein:

said opposing rollers each share a common drive source.

15. (Currently Amended) The hand-held seam closing apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising:

an idler handle pivotably mounted to said distal end; and

wherein one of said opposing rollers may be selectively engaged with said duct seam via operation of said idler ~~roller~~ handle.

16. (Currently Amended) The hand-held seam closing apparatus according to claim 15, wherein:

said idler ~~roller~~ handle is operatively connected to one of said opposing rollers such that pivoting of said idler ~~roller~~ handle causes one of said opposing rollers to move from a first non-engaging position away from said duct seam to a second engaging position in contact with said duct seam.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for sealing a duct seam having an outwardly extending sealing portion and a lower fold, said method comprising the steps of:

rotatably mounting a pair of opposing rollers upon a distal end of a hand-held seam closing apparatus, said distal end having a first planar surface and a second planar surface disposed thereon;

orienting one of said pair of opposing rollers on said first planar surface;

orienting the other of said pair of opposing rollers on said second planar surface, said first planar surface and said second planar surface being discontinuous in a step-wise manner wherein said pair of opposing rollers are oriented to be substantially non-coplanar with one another;

engaging one of said pair of opposing rollers with said outwardly extending sealing portion of said duct seam; and

actuating said hand-held seam closing apparatus to cause said one of said pair of opposing rollers to rotate in a first direction.

18. (Original) The method for sealing a duct seam according to claim 17, said method further comprising the steps of:

actuating said hand-held seam closing apparatus to cause said pair of opposing rollers to each rotate in opposing directions to one another.

19. (Original) The method for sealing a duct seam according to claim 17, said method further comprising the steps of:

forming an annular groove on one of said pair of opposing rollers for capturing said lower fold of said duct seam therein.

20. (Original) The method for sealing a duct seam according to claim 19, said method further comprising the steps of:

forming said other of said opposing rollers to include an angled profile such that a diameter of said other of said opposing rollers increases in an axial direction extending outwardly from said first and said second planar surfaces of said distal end.